

MIRACLE

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Or

A true Relation of the great Floods

which happened in Conventry, in

Lynne, and other places, on the 6. and

17. dayes of Aprill last past, in this pre-

sent year of our Lord God,

1607.



Printed at London for Nathaniel Paffbrook and
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A true Relation of the great
 Floodes which happened in Countrey in the
 Countrey of Warwicke. In Lynne in the
 Countrey of Norfolk. In Stowport in the
 Countrey of Chester, and in Sheppy, and other pla-
 ces in the Countrey of Kent, all which hap-
 pened on the 16. and 17. dayes of April
 last past in this present year
 of our Lord God,

1607.



When I enter into
 the consideration of
 the aptnesse & gre-
 dinesse of our Na-
 tion (and not onely
 of them, but almost
 of all people what-
 soeuer) both to en-
 tertaine and even with a violent beliefe,
 to embrace the report of any Miracles
 whatsoever, howe euer delivered from
 the mouthes of penne's of vaine Impe-
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stes, or the most untrue speakers, with-
 out either examination of the grosse-
 nesse, or respect of the malicious or fan-
 tasticall inventors, nay albeit it bee e-
 uen repugnant to holy Scriptures, I
 cannot chuse but admire at their want
 of faith, especially in these dayes, wher-
 in truth was neuer (since the dayes of
 the Apostles) more truely published, and
 yet such is our naturall blindness, or
 our willfull Ignorance that if we tour-
 ney neuer so safely in the perfect path of
 saluation yet we will bee drawn astray
 with the bailell & lightest report either
 of prodigious monster or false miracle.
 witness Garnets straw, being an imagi-
 nation and report as false as Satans
 humdrill who is the Authoꝛ of all false-
 hood & yet it is harboured in the heares
 and mouthes of many simple seduced
 people; witness the Jewes Prophecie,
 being an execrable Pamphlet, as grosse
 and grosser then John of Calabria, and
 was printed many years agoe, and this
 last yeare onely renewed with the addi-
 tion of 1607. yet amongst fooles, women
 & children, receyued for such an appo-
 ned miracle that as if the gift of prophe-
 sie were hereditarie to the Jewes & their
 tribes.

tobes: there are some things abonder
 beried when a man prays were made
 ver any such thing, no many such pray be
 but a meer puerion. witness I know
 that would be no such thing. Christe ma
 ny other such like, all which being most
 absurd, & most improbable. And yet that
 in these latter dayes the man of sin fol
 lowing in false prophets, false prophetes,
 false miracles, & false deceivers. It is most
 plaine in many places of holy Scriptures
 & therefore if such falsedom be the signes
 of a false Church, and a false religion,
 then questionles the Church of Rome
 hath no alliance with truth, since when
 these evils are daily nourish & increa
 sed almost howe they beguiling and in
 charing the people with the casting out
 of devils, and other vaine and false
 miracles. there may be Miracola nulla, &
 peritured miracola nulla, many wonders
 as in the Sun. Moone & stars, and fir
 mament, many wonders in the earth, in
 the ayre, and in the waters. some as fore
 runners of the last day, some as forwar
 ninges of the euills which hang ouer
 us, and some as punishments of our sins
 and of these wond. in the waters haue
 this yeare brought forth & stranges that

hath bene seed of eyther in this age
 or any age since the generall flood which
 hath gone before it : as namely that
 which in the latter end of January last,
 hapned in Somersset shire, & other parts
 of the west-countrie, the lamentable
 report whereof, hath already bene pub-
 lished and hath almost alid enter eare
 both with pittie and wonder, so many
 soules perishing, so much goodes and
 Castell consumed, & so many Townes-
 houses and good buydings over-whell-
 med, that the consideration thereof is a-
 ble to moue remorse and astonishment in
 men of the most bloody and barbourous
 natures, even such as Vergill writes of
 the Mirmidons, or Homer of the Thracians
 that being as it were, he wed out off sint
 & madded with no cruelty, yet wept at the
 destruction of Troy, alid themselves
 were the greatest actors in that huge
 massacre : like so't hearted executioners
 that feele a touch of that affliction, with
 which the afflict one, but this first
 outrage of waters, proceeding from the
 great deepe, I meane the Sea, albe at,
 the first it appeared most fearefull & won-
 drous, and that the effects thereof were
 both

both most lamentable and at self beyond
 all bound of imagination, some not so
 strangely perishing, as others more
 strangely preserved (the true relation
 wherof is to be read at pleasure) yet af-
 ter the dayes of sorrows were past over &
 that the finishing of nine dayes had fini-
 shed the remembrance of the wonder, im-
 mediately almost every one could collect
 unto himselfe a naturall cause and a pro-
 script & constant reason both how, why,
 and which way this inundation was
 effected: as one while the violence of the
 windes holding backe the springe tides
 that they would not have their free course
 according to their dispositions, made
 that two tides springing in one and com-
 ming both with a double power and
 quantity, it must of necessity follow that
 they must rise to a double height & have
 double boundes wherin to be contain-
 ed, which not being found there would
 not chuse but followe this most sodaine
 fearefull, and unexpected Over-flow:
 others imagined, that the furie of the
 winds driving the waters before them
 and raying as it were a double quanti-
 ty made the spring tides double their ac-
 customed greatnesse, and so overflowing
 their

their hartes to bound all within the
 compasse of that leuell: thus men forgetting
 the powerful hand of the Almighty,
 & turning the matter of their sins behind
 their backs, began to imagine that natu-
 rall men, that sith there was a naturall
 reason for these natural causes, sure they
 were not punishments for our transgres-
 sions: neither had God in his displea-
 sure, or for our amendment laid this pe-
 tle affliction upon vs, but questionlesse
 they were deceived: as may appeare eu-
 dently by the sequell of this relation: for
 in Concomry a Cittie seated in Warwick-
 shire vpon the mount of a small hill, be-
 ing not neare any part of the Sea or
 salt-water by many scores of miles, nei-
 ther where there is any edding or flow-
 ing, neyther any fresh water of any
 quantiry, more then such as a man may
 at any reasonable time of the yeare, epy-
 ther leape or stride ouer, this Cittie being
 euer accounted a verry drye Cittie as want-
 ing water epyther for traffick, or to beare
 a bekkell of burden. In this Cittie vppon
 Thursday at night being the 16. of A-
 prill the doores of heauen being opened
 there fell a great raine, mixed with thun-
 der & lightning, to the amazement of the
 Cittie-

Citizens, I do not meane such an amazement as drawe them either to feare or despight but such an amazement as doth commonly follow and depend upon thunder & lightning which are the darts and arrowes of the highest: this raine, this thunder & lightning continued the most part of all that night even in the greatest extremity that could be imagined, the heavens as it were even opening and spreading the lightning abroad like Curtaine, and making the darkness of the night as bright as day, for the moment it lasted, and the thunder roaring so loud, that it booke the wearied Laborer from his sleep and recreation: about midnight the thunder ceased and the raine not falling so thicke as before, was then no more but an ordinarie drizzling, so that the plow-man betooke him to the field the Laborer to his worke, and the Artificer to his occupation: not any whatsoever either fearing or seeing any cause to feare either extraordinary or ordinary flood or inundation, nor about eight of the clock this morning being Fryday the 17. of Aprill, according to the usual custome of that religious Citie, the Citizens repayed to the Church to heare a Lecture, which is usually preached every Friday throughout the whole yeare, and when they went from their houses the next daye neither sawe they any

cause of suspicion why they should not so continue, but when they returned backe fro the Lecture, they found all the lower partes of the Citty ouer-flown, with a most strange and wonderfull floode, such a one as no age, memozy or record hath euer knowne in that place fro þ first beginning: the waters being risen within the Citty in the space of thre quarters of an houre, better then nine foote high, so that their houses floode like little Ilandes about which the water beat and continued to contend with all violence, much hurt there was done of household goodes, many sellers of salte, cozne and other commodities spoiled, but vnto the high praise of the great God of heauen not any man, woman, or child nor any other liuing creature, that was of any valuable estimation perished in the waters, onely the affliction of their mindes, who being the owners of those houses saue this fearefull combate betwixt their goodes and this mercheless enemy, howe farre they were transported with agonie, feare and desperation none can truly iudge or write of, but such as haue felt & known the like of a greater extremity, for in these sodain and miserable disasters, there is euer a diuers and furious comdate of many passions and many afflictions.

This water after it was growne to his full height

height and strength, is so continued as in a
 stay for the space of three howers, gazing int
 leaze as it were to behold his dreadfulness,
 and to tremble at the work of the highest; and
 after the three howers were expired, it sodainly
 banished a way beyond all expectation, mak
 ing his coming in, & his going forth of e
 quall wonder, the stay of the flood being al
 most three times so long, as both his increase
 and falling, his increasing, abiding & decay
 ing being in all little above foure howers,
 yet his extraordinary depth full nine foot by
 measure, & his boundes many miles in comp
 as, a wonder more then ever hath bin read
 of, and an exemplary punishment so great &
 so mercifull that it is worthy the recording
 to all after ages, for it came onely to affright
 and forwaite, not to afflict or confound: for
 first no living soules had perished, no cattell
 are destroyed, no houses are over whelmed,
 and for the losse of private goodes and com
 modities, it is supposed that the valew of 100
 myles, will make a full restitution: and yet
 neither came flood more sodaine, nor was
 water in the we more cruell: nor ever were
 men more secure, or lesse suspicious of so br
 looks for a danger, but the hand of the Lord
 is upon his servants, and hee will chastise
 those which offend, and haue mercy where he
 pleaseth.

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About 19. yeares agone when the same Gentleman which now is Mayor of the City of Countrey was then Mayor, it is reported there was then a very strange flood and so great a water, that the amazement and rumour thereof ran through the whole Kingdome, but such as saw both this and that former affirme, that the flood which fell 19. yeares agoe beeing compared with this that fell nowe was but a small puddle to a great Sea; from which I gather that as our sins do increase, so these signes and warnings for the amendment of our faultes are like wise both multiplied and redoubled, and wee that will not put on sack-cloth and ashes at the crye and preaching, not of one Ionas, but of many millions must eyther be warned by these wonders, or else looke for most todayne destruction.

*Floodes at
Lynne.*

In the weeke before Easter last past in this present yeare of our Lord God 1607. the Sea forcing a breach through the banke a little from Lynne, came flowing in with such a furious spring tide, that it drowned by a great part of the Towne together with the marshes and groundes thereunto adioyning and so passing like an invincible host, along the Sea coast, it over-flowed to the number of almost a dozen Townes and villages; only the people with great difficulty, and by the fore-warning of the former flood which hap-
ned

ned the 20. of January, escape with safety of their lives, but most of their cattell were lost and all their corne and graine consumed.

The like to this the same weeke before Easter last happened at Boston where the Sea brake in about the haven and drowned a great part of the Towne even almost to the great Crosse, and if the vigilancy and industry of the Countrey and the Commanders thereof had not exceeded both hope and expectation, it was feared that a great part of that Towne and countrey would have been within the hazard of irrecoverable evil, so mighty was the breach, and so extreme the swelling of the sea.

*Flood at
Boston.*

The same weeke before Easter, the Sea brake in upon the Ile of Sheppe, and drowned the most part of all those grounds, and if the vigilance and wisdom of one private Gentleman had not prevented the fury of the waters, it had borne away many thousands of sheepe and many hundreds of great cattell, but praise bee given to our great God, they were preserved for the benefit of this nation, only some few were lost, which fewes it is hoped will bee no occasion of dearth or ensuing scarcity, at the same time that this Ile of Sheppy was thus drowned, the River of Thames breaking over her banks drowned a great part of all those Marshes and lowe grounds

*Flood in
Kent.*

grounds which border vppon her, wherein many cattel were lost, and an infinit deale of good grasse made vtterly vnfit for this years seruice.

*Flood at
Stop-
worth.*

Lastly & which of all was most strange and miraculous at the Towne of Stopworth vpon the edge of Chef-shire, through which there passeth a riuer from thence down to Warington, vpon a nights raine in the weeke before Easter last the water riss & overflowed both some part of the towne, & al the plaines that were adioyning, a thing neuer till that time beheld by any man, and as diuers men dwelling about those parts, and which were eye-beholders of the inundation haue reported, that the riuer for many howzes together seemed to be carried against his course, even towards the head and hpper part of the riuer a thing both strange, vnreasonable and vn-naturall, from which we may gather many obseruations for our soules health, as the testimonies of Gods great power, the mar- quable signes of his mercies and the true touch and feeling of our owne sinnes which touch breeding in vs remorse and penance & that penance a satisfaction for our sin, and a detestation of our sinnes no doubt but wee shall haue the threatning of Gods wrath remotted and be the inioyers of the blisse of his Kingdome.

